

STATINTL

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

6 March 1975

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

Bill:

The attached was sent over today  
by Mr. Kelley with a request that it be  
given to you.

JMC

Attachment

*Rose - This came in today  
and copies were forwarded  
to DCI*

DOJ Review Completed

ACTION



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

STATEMENT OF  
CLARENCE M. KELLEY  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEBRUARY 27, 1975

I welcome the opportunity to appear before this distinguished Committee of Congress. You have my assurance of the FBI's most earnest cooperation in these proceedings.

Let me affirm that I share the apprehension and the sensitivity which you have expressed that any agency of our Government might exceed, in any manner, the bounds of its rightful authority.

Let me affirm as well that I also share your strong commitment to safeguarding the all-too-fragile rights and freedoms that are the sacred heritage of every American.

I want to assure you that no one is more deeply concerned than I am about the serious considerations which underlie these hearings, or more strongly aware of the important benefits that can result from them.

I welcome your interest; and I share your goal of preventing any misuse of the FBI--its investigative resources, as well as the information in its files.

When I appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee in June, 1973, as Director-designate of the FBI, I testified that I had never bowed to political pressures; and I stated my strong conviction that the Committee should not confirm anyone who would bow to such pressures.

Nineteen months have passed; and no one has approached me--nor am I aware of any other effort, direct or veiled, in that time--to use the FBI for partisan political purposes.

I am very much aware, however, of the potential for misuse that persists. That is why I am fully dedicated to the conscientious effort being made within the Department of Justice, including the FBI itself, as well as by the Congress to pinpoint areas where the Bureau is susceptible to misuse--and to devise effective and lasting safeguards.

Let me assure you that I wholeheartedly endorse the objectives that Attorney General Levi has outlined to this Committee.

I endorse not only his objectives, but his approach. It is a constructive approach; and the FBI will work with

him each step of the way in carefully laying out the facts and in analyzing them judiciously so that definitive guidelines and safeguards can be developed where ever the need exists.

I believe in an FBI that fully justifies the confidence and support of our Nation.

This means an FBI that serves the American people--all of our people--not only with skill and determination, but with integrity and restraint.

This means an FBI that is fair and impartial; an FBI that honors the limits of its authority; an FBI that genuinely safeguards civil rights.

This means above all an FBI that is completely impervious to pressure or manipulation on behalf of any special interest group.

These views coincide exactly with those of Attorney General Levi and, I am fully confident, with those of every member of this Committee as well.

They also mirror the ambitions and beliefs of all FBI employees whom I have met in the past 19 months.

It is in this spirit--and with strong confidence that these proceedings will produce beneficial results for the FBI itself, as well as for the American people we serve--that I join my associates in pledging our enthusiastic cooperation to you.